



RUSSIAN NEWS

No Fighting of Consequence Lately.

PROPOSALS OF PEACE

General Oyama Has Fixed April 10 for Occupation of Harbin.

BELIEVED WILL KEEP PROMISE

Diplomats in St. Petersburg Are Convinced That Peace Negotiations Are in Progress But Russia Seems to Be Afraid and Japan Don't Care.

St. Petersburg, March 29.—There has been no fighting of any consequence lately. A reconnaissance establishes the fact that the Japanese are gathering in strong force 20 miles south of Sipinghai, evidently intending to attack the Russian position at that place. The Russians are strongly fortifying the position and apparently expect to make a stand. The country is comparatively clear of Japanese. The Japanese are approaching Kirin, threatening the communications in the Ussuri district.

A number of Chinese bandits are constantly augmenting. The Chinese continue to report that Oyama has issued a proclamation fixing the date for the occupation of Harbin at April 10 but this prediction, according to the Russians, if actually apparent is improbable of fulfillment, while the Japanese are confident that he will do as he promises.

The authorities continue to deny stoutly that Russia has made any proposals to Japan. This is literally true as Russia has only made known negative conditions, leaving intermediary to convey the conditions to Japan on their own responsibility. The diplomats in St. Petersburg are convinced that something is in progress, but none of those in a position to know will acknowledge that they are aware what is actually been or is being done.

The Novoe Vremya yesterday, for the first time admitted that there was a possibility of negotiations for peace commenting on the efforts of the British and French press to prove that peace was advisable, both for Russia and Japan. The Novoe Vremya declared, however, that the payment of any indemnity by Russia was utterly out of the question.

EMPEROR ATTEMPTS SUICIDE.

Is Frustrated by His Mother, Empress Dowager.

Paris, March 29.—Unconfirmed reports from St. Petersburg, published here this morning, is to the effect that Emperor Nicholas made an attempt to commit suicide and wounded himself in the hand. The rumor further says that the emperor's design was frustrated by the intervention of his mother, the empress dowager.

Denial No. 32.

St. Petersburg, March 29.—The St. Petersburg official news agency says: "In spite of the general inclination in favor of conclusions of the war, Russia has not proposed any peace conditions nor prepared any such conditions."

WILL REBUILD.

Albany Woolen Mills Destroyed by a Fire.

Portland, March 29.—"The fire at Albany will make no difference with contracts on hand," said Charles Cooney, president of the Bannockburn Manufacturing Company, this morning, "but will mean that the cloth for our contracts will not be made in Oregon. I cannot say authoritatively, but think the mill will be rebuilt as quickly as possible. The fire will probably not

block establishment of a factory for making clothes in Portland."

"The plant at Albany cost the company about \$110,000, with the machinery all installed," said H. M. Grant secretary and treasurer of the company, this morning. "The insurance is about \$30,000, possibly a little more. I think the plant will be rebuilt."

Mr. Cooney and Mr. Grant will go to Albany this evening to look over the situation.

Heavy Libel Suit Against "P.-I."

Seattle, Wash., March 29.—The Seattle Post-Intelligencer was yesterday made the defendant in a \$15,000 libel suit, filed by James McLeod, until a few weeks ago county jailer. McLeod alleges that the Post-Intelligencer published a story recently in which it accused him of allowing prisoners to escape from the county jail because he had been offered and accepted bribes for so doing. McLeod further alleges that the publication injured his reputation and caused him to lose his employment.

Red Men Want Building Money.

Aberdeen, Wash., March 29.—Quinnault tribe of Red Men has made arrangements with a carnival company for week's carnival in June. The money made from this will be turned into the building fund of the tribe which is planning a fine \$20,000 wigwam during the coming year.

Chinese Prevent Reinforcements.

Paris, March 29.—A Shanghai correspondent of the Journal says that Chinese bandits have cut the Chinese Eastern railway at several places, in order to prevent the arrival of Chinese reinforcements.

Great Incohonee Dead.

Montgomery, Ala., March 29.—Thos. H. Watts, the great incohonee of the Red Men of the United States, died today of rheumatism, aged 30 years.

CATTLE CROWERS

Ninety Per Cent Will Give Testimony to Convict Trust.

PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATION

Notifies the Government That the Cattle Raisers Tributary to All the Large Cities Are Ready to Assist Government in the Prosecution.

El Paso, Texas, March 29.—The following statement with reference to the resolutions adopted by the Texas cattlemen men that they will give all possible evidence in the investigations now in progress by the United States government of the so-called beef trust was issued today by President Turney of the Interstate Cattle Growers' Association:

"Ninety-nine per cent of the cattle growers of the country believing that illegal combinations, having for their object the stifling of competition and controlling 98 per cent of the cattle shipped by the six great slaughtering markets—Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Fort Worth, Omaha and Los Angeles, and will help the government all they can to break up this monster. It can be done and the cattlemen will help.

CREW OF STEAMER KLOSE.

Picked Up by the Polaris and Taken to San Pedro.

San Francisco, March 29.—The Merchants Exchange received news today that the steamer Polaris from Astoria had arrived at San Pedro with the captain and crew of the schooner C. A. Klose, recently found abandoned and in a waterlogged condition near Grays Harbor to which port she was bound from this city.

After two vessels had vainly tried to tow the C. A. Klose to a port, the schooner turned turtle and went ashore. It was believed at the time that the captain and crew had been lost.

(The C. A. Klose left Astoria March 17, with a cargo of lumber from Vancouver, and was bound for San Francisco.)—Ed.

TRUST METHOD

Witnesses Closely Questioned on Business.

SEVERAL APPROACHED

Disreputable Methods of Paid Heirings of Chicago Beef Trust.

INTIMIDATION OF WITNESSES

J. Ogden Armour Says the indictment Returned Yesterday Against His Confidential Man, T. J. Connors, Result of a Misunderstanding.

Chicago, March 29.—Several witnesses employed by the Chicago packers were heard today at the session of the special grand jury investigating the business of the so-called beef trust. All of the witnesses were subject to a rigid examination as to whether they had been approached by outsiders since being called as witnesses, the inquisitorial body evidently being more anxious for the present, at least, to secure further evidence of the alleged tampering with witnesses by interested persons, than to secure the real facts concerning the beef combination.

From federal officials it is learned that several witnesses had been approached and as soon as sufficient proof is in the hands of District Attorney Morrison, it is said that more indictments will be returned.

In a statement given out tonight J. Ogden Armour, the head of the Armour Company, declared that the indictment returned yesterday against his confidential man, Thomas J. Connors, on a charge of tampering with witness John Shields, is the result of a grave misunderstanding as to the facts.

Shields is the New York representative of the H. J. Ellis & Co. agents for Armour & Co., in Singapore, and according to Armour's statement Shields called at the office of the packing company of his own volition.

Continuing Armour said: "The usual courtesies of all business houses to its representatives was accorded to Shields to the extent of granting his request to communicate with his office in New York over private wires of the company concerning his business affairs there. During his stay in Chicago Shields was not entertained by representatives of Armour & Co. or at theater parties or elsewhere. Connors assured me, and I have every reason to believe him, he did not, as charged in the indictment, attempt to influence Shields in the performance of his duty to appear before the grand jury and give evidence on any subject on which he might have information.

ROCKERFELLER'S GIFT.

Congregationalists Agree to Accept the Money, But Others Kick.

Boston, March 29.—It was announced today by the American board of foreign missions in its prudential committee report, from the sub-committee that they had decided to accept John D. Rockefeller's gift of \$100,000.

Final action on the report, however, will not be taken for two weeks, owing to the fact that the protestants requested a delay. The report says, that in accepting the gift it followed the universal custom of the church in receiving all gifts offered it, and the acceptance of the gift involves no expression on the part of the committee as to the character of the giver.

Rev. Evans, chairman of the protesting committee, said today: "A meeting of the committee has been called for tomorrow to discuss the report and decide upon the next step. Protestations are growing in number throughout the country, both inside and without the Congregational church.

More and more representative men are coming over to our side. The matter is not settled by any means.

MORE NEW CASES.

Increases in Number of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis Cases.

New York, March 29.—Records in the epidemic of cerebro spinal meningitis have been broken by reports of 32 new cases during one day in the boroughs of Greater New York. Several cases are also reported in Passaic, N. J., where one of the public schools will be closed, two deaths having already occurred among the pupils.

The board of experts appointed by Health Commissioner Darlington continues its labors, but as yet he has found no cause for the prevalence of the disease, or a means to reduce its fatality. The death rate is well defined cases amounts to more than 70 per cent.

Halibut Schooner Lost.

Victoria, B. C., March 29.—Captain Hickey and crew of the American Halibut schooner Ella G. of Seattle, lost at Clayoquot, where she was driven ashore during a storm on March 22, arrived here on the steamer Queen City en route to Seattle. They sold the vessel as she lay on the beach at Clayoquot for \$300.

No Sunday Billiards.

Albany, March 29.—The recently organized Good Citizenship League scored the first point in its reform work in Albany last night when the city council passed an ordinance closing billiard and poolrooms on Sunday and at midnight every night.

No Cigarettes in Wisconsin.

Madison, Wis., March 29.—The senate today passed an anti-cigarette bill which absolutely prohibits the sale or manufacture of cigarettes or cigarette paper. It now goes to the governor.

STANDARD OIL CO.

Kansas Grand Jury to Commence Investigation.

RAILROAD WILL BE INDICTED

A Grand Jury Has Been Drawn at Topeka Ostensibly to Investigate Local Matters, But in Reality to Investigate the Standard Oil Company.

Kansas City, March 29.—The Journal today says:

The Standard Oil Company is to undergo a grand jury investigation by the federal government the same as the beef trust is now burdened with in Chicago. The oil trust investigation is to take place in Topeka, according to a government official here and is to begin in a couple of weeks. Incidentally the railroads are to be dragged in.

A grand jury was drawn at Topeka a few days ago, ostensibly to look after the regular criminal business of the Kansas federal court. It will attend to that business, but its really big task is to investigate Standard Oil methods. Great secrecy is maintained in regard to the matter. The names of the jurors will not be given out. It has been the custom in the past to publish the list of grand jurors along with the petit jurors. But a new rule has been laid down not to divulge the names of members of the jury.

From the same source it is learned that Commissioner Garfield will aid in the grand jury investigation in Kansas.

FUNSTON'S SUCCESSOR.

Colonel Dugan to Be Commander of the Great Lakes.

Chicago, March 29.—Colonel Walter T. Dugan, first infantry, U. S. A., will succeed Brigadier General Frederick Funston as commander, temporarily, of the department of the lakes, with headquarters in Chicago.

Colonel Dugan is now at Ft. Wayne and will come to Chicago within ten days. General Funston, who has been transferred to the command of the department of California, with headquarters at San Francisco, will leave for the west next Saturday. Lieutenant E. C. Long and Lieutenant B. J. Mitchell, his aids de camp, will accompany him.

DOMINGO HOT

Return of Italian Cruiser Calabria.

TROUBLE IS BREWING

A Leading Italian Has a Serious Dispute With Minister of Finance.

ADOPTION OF MODUS VIVENDI

Several Hot Interviews Between Italian and Minister Velasquez With the Result that the Cruiser is Sent for in Case of an Emergency.

New York, March 29.—In connection with the return of the Italian cruiser Calabria, from Kingston, Jamaica, the Herald's correspondent at Santo Domingo says:

Signor Bancalari, a leading Italian, has sailed from Samana, after a serious dispute with Minister of Finance Velasquez.

Bancalari took a leading part in urging the general adoption of the modus vivendi, but was indignant when he learned that Velasquez had recently paid \$10,000 on the claim of a French creditor, while Bancalari's government note was returned dishonored for the same sum.

Bancalari said he was willing to wait with the others, but would not tolerate discrimination. His claim is secured by a lien of 8 per cent on all the revenues of the ports of Samana and Sanchez.

Several hot interviews passed and the Italian threatened to call on the Calabria to return from Jamaica. The cruiser arrived at 6 o'clock Tuesday evening.

The cutter Logan of the Castine, has boarded the Calabria, whose commander says his orders are to remain here until relieved by the Dogal, now at Trinidad.

Mr. Dawson, the American minister and Captain Dorn have both cabled the authorities at Washington.

CAPTAIN AND CREW IN JAIL.

Uruguayan Government Seizes a Sealing Schooner.

Victoria, B. C., March 29.—Advices have been received here that Captain Mattrian and the crew of the sealing schooner Agnes G. Donahue, owned by Captain Balcom of Victoria, has been imprisoned at Montevideo by the Uruguayan government, which seized the vessel for alleged poaching on the shore rookeries.

The captain was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and the members of the crew to two years each. Captain Balcom has protested and claims \$65,000 damages. The Ottawa government has taken up the case through Great Britain with Uruguay. The other schooners hunting off the south American coast have made good catches. The F. B. Marvin has 1600 skins, the Edith R. Balcom 1180 and the Enterprise 1004.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN.

Spoke the Sealing Schooner Kinsi Maru.

Victoria, B. C., March 28.—The steamer Empress of Japan, which has arrived here, spoke the Japanese sealing schooner Kinsi Maru at Nootka, where the Japanese vessel called for water. The Kinsi Maru was sent across to the California coast to hunt until the commencement of the season in Behring sea, when she will proceed there using fire arms, which the vessels of nations party to the modus vivendi may not do. The Kinsi Maru had 100 skins. She is the vessel which called at Drakes Bay, Cal., for water and a story was circulated that she had surreptitiously secured Hotchkiss guns from San Francisco to raid the rookeries. This was untrue.

The sealing schooners have been

suffering through the heavy weather prevalent off the coast. The Eva Marie lost ten canoes swept from her deck. The Dora Steward had her sails torn. All have small catches, the highest being 185, taken by the Carlotta G. Cox.

GOLD DUST CAPTURED.

San Francisco Collector of Customs Seizes \$2000.

San Francisco, March 29.—Collector of the Port Stratton has taken charge of \$2000 in gold dust which was on deposit to the order of William Loaiza & Co., in a local bank. It had been smuggled into this state from Mexico and was held here without any records being made in the custom house, which is contrary to law.

The gold dust is held by the collector pending an application for a remission of penalties and forfeiture, which the gold dust is subject to under the law.

STATUTE OF GEORGE.

Washington Statute to Be Presented to State University.

Seattle, March 29.—Rainier Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at a meeting held in this city, by a unanimous and enthusiastic vote decided to take the lead in presenting to the state university, located here, a fine heroic statue of George Washington. The appropriateness of this gift is clear, when it is remembered that both the state and its principal institution of education bear the name of the father of his country.

City of Seattle Fined.

Victoria, B. C., March 29.—The Dominion government has upheld Collector Newbury of Victoria in fining the steamer City of Seattle \$400 for violating the Canadian regulations in taking passengers from the steamer Jefferson when that vessel was disabled in Swanson Bay, Canadian waters, some month ago.

TEN LITTLE BOYS

Robbed Stores, Churches, School Houses and Railroad Offices.

CANDY, GUM AND PENNIES

Started It Just for Fun, and Could Not Stop Because Some of the Kids Didn't Get Enough of the Spoils and Plunder to Satisfy Them.

Chicago, March 29.—Ten boys of Harvey, a suburb town, have confessed in the juvenile court to the robbery of 18 stores, three churches, two school-houses and a railroad station. The plunder consisted of candy, gum, and pennies, and it was too free a distribution of the candy at school that at last enabled the police to capture the band, who had led them a merry chase for months.

"We started it just for fun," sobbed one of the culprits, "but when we got into it we could not stop. We just had to go right on stealing because there was always some boy that did not have what he wanted."

The boys, whose ages range from 12 to 15 years, are all of respectable families.

Their hearty repentance, added to pleadings of their parents, induced Judge Mack to release the prisoners on probation.

ESKASONI FLOATED.

Reported Aground at Limerick, But Has Been Floated.

San Francisco, March 29.—The Merchants' Exchange received news and advices from London today stating that the British ship Eskasoni, from Oregon, and which had been previously reported aground outside of Limerick Lock, had been floated.

Record Breaker.

San Francisco, March 29.—A record breaking trainload of lumber has left this city for Buffalo, N. Y., marking the beginning of a new phase of a California industry. The train, which was made up of 25 cars, was entirely of dressed redwood, curly and straight grained, and designed for interior finishings. In each car there were 20,000 feet of lumber.